



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order by R. Gagnon at 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

B. Gerrish, R. Gagnon, Vice Principal E. Wilkie, Vice Principal J. Braun, Principal R. Gallant, Staff Representative S. Valeri, B. Della Maestra (recording secretary), D. Wilson, S. Shuttleworth

Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were previously approved electronically by Council members this past June in order to expedite the posting of the minutes on the school website.

Reports

1. Principal's Report

Mr. Gallant participated in a Principal Exchange this summer to Sydney Secondary College in Australia and presented a PowerPoint session for Council. As an extension of that visit, Principal Lee Wright of Balmain (one of three schools that form Sydney Secondary College) will visit Sherwood during his exchange to Canada October 3-14, 2009.

Current Sherwood enrolment is 1195 students. Current staffing is composed of 75 teachers, 10 Educational Assistants, 6 Secretaries, 6 Caretakers and 6 Cafeteria Workers. The three administrators plan to visit all Grade 10 and 11 homerooms to have a dialogue with students regarding expectations and rules.

A Grade 9 spirit day and assembly are planned for Sept. 18/09 as well as the Terry Fox Run/Walk on Thursday, September 24/09 to engage the whole school.

2. Vice-Principals' Report—J. Braun

VP Braun and head caretaker Mary performed the monthly school inspection. Concrete slabs at the front entrance have been evened-out along with the back entrance which has been patched with asphalt. The day caretaker will label the school stairwells as follows—A, B, C, or D and the floor will be indicated as well, e.g. A1, A2, A3—for easier identification in an emergency. Currently, the head caretaker position for daytime is posted.

The Mean Girls/anti-bullying campaign continues as part of the safe schools initiative. Sherwood would like to bring in a speaker for a student assembly in October and the Safe Schools Committee plans to meet with the school liaison officer (H. Pham) of the HW Police Services. The lockdown procedure will be reviewed to balance the number of students in school locations. Alcohol hand sanitizers are not prohibited at this time.

The Data Team continues to set plans for the year and will examine information on individual classes in this year's grades and compare with the previous, e.g. Grade 9 Math marks (academic versus applied).

Vice-Principals' Report—E. Wilkie

The Assessment-Evaluation-Reporting (AER) process continues. Feedback is needed from Cabinet to a proposal regarding late and missed assignments. The final version of this new report-card document is due January 2010.

Mr. M. Strobl will lead the Literacy Committee this year. It is anticipated there will be a continuance of after-school support with a focus in the second semester and a "Tori Pesowski" area in the Library established.

The Directions Team will review smart goals/feedback from last year. The Professional Development and Learning Community Days have been compressed into 4 full days for the 2009/10 school year. A review of the planning and reporting of the anaphylaxis policy will take place as well as an update to the allergies list and medical-alert list. A memo to parents was mailed out in the summer package requesting parents provide their student's current medical information to the school's main office.

The rollout of the HWDSB's Gender Equity policy continues with a "Let Me Be Me" positive space program established in each secondary school. A John Howard Society representative is available for a substance abuse/anger management class as part of the Board's restorative justice initiative.

3. Staff Report

Ms. Valeri reported the fall sports are underway (baseball, football, volleyball, tennis, touch-football, soccer) with new coaches and from the community. Ms. E. Grilli will lead the "Feel the Power" initiative for girls and continue this program that encourages physical activity. The cafeteria staff may also participate with the staff and students for the Terry Fox Run/Walk in memory of Tori.

The Student Athletic Council (SAC) clothing sale begins at the end of September for a 4-5 week sale period. Proceeds are targeted for the weight centre. Orders will arrive before Christmas.

A Grade 9 orientation to the school library is proposed for the last week of September or early October. A H1N1 display for students is proposed for the front display cases.

A fitness element has been added to the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Health & Wellness program at Sherwood. To obtain this special seal on the high school diploma, 1 co-op credit and 4 specialty classes are required for certification. This program provides the student with a pathway to "test drive" a career. The Physical Education Department has a smart board located in the gymnasium.

4. Student Council Report—absent

Nick Neu is the Student Council President for 2009/10 and will meet with Principal Gallant bi-weekly. Student Council meetings have changed. Full Council meets twice monthly. The executive committee meets weekly. Student Council has a goal to develop student leadership. If the president is unable to attend School Council, it is anticipated a representative or report may be substituted.

5. Chair's Report

Ms. Gagnon reported that the Parental Outreach Funding from last year purchased 500 Sherwood School magnets from Sharper Marketing and that account was paid in full. The magnets were mailed to the Grade 9 students in July and included in the folders for new registrants. The balance of the funding purchased four gift certificates that will be used for a draw at the October 8/09 Parents' Night and paid for the necessary stationery supplies for the School Council binder. The expenditure report was filed with the superintendent's office June 1/09. The School Council Annual Report is posted for review on the Sherwood website. The Board's website is not accepting the online annual reports at this time.

Ms. Gagnon submitted greetings to Sherwood's Graduating Class June 25/09 on behalf of Council. The School Council summer newsletter was distributed and is posted on the school website. Nomination forms for School Council membership can be found on page 2 of that newsletter.

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety—also see VP J. Braun's report.

The weight room was painted and ventilation repaired. New equipment was purchased using SHSM funding. New blinds were installed in the history rooms. The auto shop made bike racks for school use. Two have been placed at the front school entrance and an appropriate spot needs to be found for the Princeton Drive entrance. The back doors need to be painted black.

Twenty school windows were replaced recently due to vandalism. The air conditioning system is working but a new chiller is needed in 2010. Water fountains are clean and working. Plumbing issues only will force the closure of washrooms.

Hamilton's Public Health Services in conjunction with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board provided an information guide issued to every student today regarding the current influenza pandemic. Students are asked not to go to school if ill, but please remember to phone the school and report the absence. To help monitor respiratory illness in the community, it will be helpful to indicate a reason for the absence. In order to minimize risk at Sherwood, posters are in washrooms to remind students of proper hand hygiene to avoid the spread of germs and teachers will reinforce to students not to share pens/pencils/drinks, etc. If a student is showing signs (fever, cough, sore throat), they are to report to a waiting area. The Board has established an emergency planning team specializing in the H1N1 virus issue. Please view the HWDSB website.

2. Plastic Water Bottle sales and purchases face a potential ban next September for secondary schools. Sherwood's water fountains are functioning and clean. In schools built prior to 1990, caretaking staff will log the daily flushing of drinking water to remove impurities and other pollutants. Flushing entails a minimum of 5 minutes.

3. The HWDSB has adopted a requirement to **post calorie information** on menu items in high school cafeterias. It is unclear at the time of this meeting whether Chartwells Food Service has posted the calorie counts at Sherwood. Principal Gallant will confirm for October's meeting. The Board is currently developing a nutrition policy. The posting of this dietary information complements the work of Sherwood's HEAT initiative.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. October Parents' Night is Thursday, October 8/09 from 6-8 p.m. New—The SAC will set up a spirit clothing display outside the cafeteria so parents can view samples. Orders may be placed at the same time. Also in

appreciation of Sherwood parents attending Parents' Night, a draw will be held and 4 lucky parents will win gift certificates (Canadian Tire and Indigo). Draw boxes at each of the main entrances manned by Student Ambassadors will be available for depositing ballots. Winners will be notified the following day. Future consideration for outside agencies to attend the spring Parents' Night will be examined at a later time.

2. Please submit newsworthy items and articles for inclusion in the fall newsletter to Ms. Gagnon.

3. Nomination forms are currently being accepted for any and all parent positions on Council. They were printed on the back page of the summer newsletter and can be returned to the school office, Principal or Chair. This is the last meeting of the current Council and the new Council will form at the next meeting in October. All Sherwood parents are invited and encouraged to become members on School Council.

4. The Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants for School Councils deadline is October 16/09. Council members received this information by email May 25th. A short discussion took place for possible uses for this funding. A decision will be made at the October meeting in order to meet the online submission deadline.

5. No further correspondence to report. A suggestion was made by Ms. Gagnon to circulate the School Council meeting minutes to our superintendent and trustee this year. No objections. Ms. Gagnon will send our meeting dates to Superintendent Stephanian and extend an invitation to attend a meeting in 2009/10.

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
